

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for protecting the identity of a mobile wireless terminal during attachment to a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

receiving in the network a request for access from a mobile wireless terminal previously registered with the network;

querying at least one serving node in the wireless network to recognize the mobile wireless network in accordance with a temporary identity contained in the access request, but if no serving node recognizes the mobile wireless terminal, then

launching a query from the one serving node to a register in the wireless network storing identity information of previously registered mobile wireless terminals to identify the mobile wireless terminal from its temporary identity; and

sending an identification response in the form of at least permanent identity information from the register to the at least one serving node to identify the mobile wireless terminal.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of updating the register each time the temporary identity of the mobile wireless terminal is allocated (including allocation the very first time and reallocation).

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of updating the register at detachment of the mobile wireless terminal from the wireless telephony network.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the at least one serving node discards a stored temporary identity for the mobile wireless terminal upon receipt of a detachment request and an acknowledgement from the terminal.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4 further comprising the step of storing in the at least one serving node a temporary identity contained in the detachment request when the mobile wireless terminal initiates detachment.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of storing a new temporary identity for the mobile wireless terminal following temporary identity reallocation when the wireless telephony network initiates detachment of the mobile wireless terminal.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising . the step of storing both new and old temporary identities for the mobile wireless terminal in the register following a temporary identity reallocation.

8. (Currently amended) A wireless network for protecting the identity of a mobile wireless terminal during attachment, comprising:

at least one serving node for receiving a request for access from a mobile wireless terminal previously registered with the network and for identifying the mobile wireless terminal in accordance with a temporary identity contained in the access request when the serving node has knowledge of the mobile wireless terminal; and

a register in the wireless network storing permanent identity information of previously registered mobile wireless terminals to identify the mobile wireless terminal from its temporary identity using its permanent identity information in response to a query from the at least one serving node when the one node lacks knowledge of the mobile wireless terminal.

9. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 8 wherein the register is updated each time the temporary identity of the mobile wireless terminal is allocated.

10. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 8 wherein the register undergoes updating at detachment of the mobile wireless terminal from the wireless telephony network.

11. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 10 wherein the at least one serving node discards a stored temporary identity for the mobile wireless terminal upon receipt of a detachment request and an acknowledgement from the mobile wireless terminal.

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12. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 11 wherein the at least one serving node stores a temporary identity contained in the detachment request when the mobile wireless terminal initiates detachment.

13. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 12 wherein the at least one serving node stores a new temporary identity for the mobile wireless terminal following temporary identity reallocation when the wireless telephony network initiates detachment of the mobile wireless terminal.

14. (Previously presented) The network according to claim 8 wherein the register stores both new and old temporary identities for the mobile wireless terminal following a temporary identity reallocation.